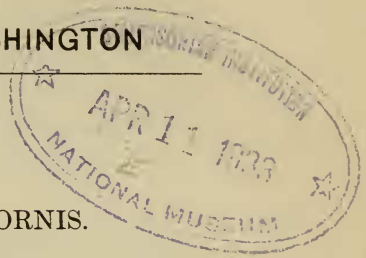


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



THE GENERIC NAME HAPLORNIS.

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE.

A number of years ago during work on a collection of birds from islands of the southern Pacific the writer observed that the generic name *Muscylva* Lesson,¹ in current use for the curious flycatcher of Fiji described originally by Gray² as *Rhipidura lessoni*, was involved in hopeless complication due to the fact that its original basis was composite and that it had had no type designation.

The details of this matter are discussed in full in the Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, vol. 63, August, 1919, pages 201 to 203, and need not be repeated here. It is sufficient to say that in an endeavor to straighten out this nomenclatural tangle the writer designated the type of *Muscylva* Lesson as *Muscicapa caerulea* Brehm, there being no way open to save it for current use, which made *Muscylva* a synonym of *Hypothymis* Boie, and so eliminated it from further consideration. At the same time he set up the new name *Haplornis* to replace *Muscylva*, but through absorption in the involved discussion concerned with the status of the latter name neglected definitely to designate a type, so that *Haplornis*, cited simply as a new name, ranks as a synonym of *Muscylva*, and so must be placed with that name in the synonymy of *Hypothymis*.

Dr. Witmer Stone in reviewing this paper in the Auk (1920, p. 160) attempted to rectify this error by designating *Rhipidura lessoni* Gray as type of *Haplornis*, but this action is believed to have come too late to be valid.

It has long been my intention to give this question further attention, but various matters have prevented until now when

¹Traité d' Ornith., 1831, p. 651.

²Gen. Birds, 1846, p. 258.

Dr. Ernst Mayr, engaged in study of the Pacific Island collections of the American Museum of Natural History, brings the matter again to attention with the request that I discuss it as he has need to treat the species concerned in a revision of the flycatchers of Polynesia.

There is proposed the genus

Mayrornis gen. nov.

Characters.—Generally similar to *Chasiempis* Cabanis,³ but with rictal bristles less prominently developed; feet decidedly smaller, with anterior toes weaker; tarsus relatively shorter.

Type.—*Rhipidura lessoni* Gray, which becomes *Mayrornis lessoni* (Gray).

The genus is named in honor of Dr. Ernst Mayr in recognition of his work on the avifauna of the Pacific Islands.

³*Chasiempis* Cabanis, Arch. für Naturg., 1847, p. 207, type, *Muscicapa sandwichensis* Latham.